

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A foot and ankle support, comprising:

a boot element having an upper part configured to contain a lower part of a user's leg and the ~~use's~~ user's ankle and a lower part configured to contain at least part of the user's foot,

the boot element providing a front opening and a pair of side flaps defining the opening,

primary fastening means operable to draw the side flaps together and each side flap having at least ~~one aperture~~ two apertures positioned to form ~~a pair~~ two pairs of adjacent apertures when the side flaps are pulled together, and at least ~~one~~ two first straps, each first strap able to engage with one side flap and be passed through ~~the~~ or ~~an~~ an aperture ~~a~~ corresponding one of the two apertures in the other side flap and returned to the first side flap for engagement therewith, and

secondary fastening means to further secure the boot element.

2. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side flaps have inner and outer surfaces, the first strap and the inner and outer surfaces having part fastening means thereon to enable the strap to be secured to the inner surface of one side flap, passed through the aperture in that side flap, looped through the aperture in the other side flap and be secured on the outer surface of the first mentioned side flap.

3. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein a pair of apertures are provided on each side flap, one aperture being at or adjacent the upper part of the boot element and one aperture being at or adjacent the lower part of the boot element.

4. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the inner and outer surfaces of each side flap have the pile thereon of a pile and hook-fastening device, the hooks being provided on the strap.

5. (original) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the secondary fastening means comprise two straps having a first end and a second free end, the first ends being affixed or affixable to the upper part of the boot element and each of said straps being affixed to extend forwardly and

down and having a length to pass across the top of the foot, under the metatarsal region of the foot and diagonally back up to be fastened to the boot element, part fastening means being provided on the boot element and the straps.

6. (currently amended) A foot and ankle support as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first strap or straps can be positioned at a ~~selected~~ user-selected angle to the flap.

7. (new) A foot and ankle support, comprising:
a boot element with an upper part and a lower part, and with a first side flap and a second side flap,
the upper part shaped to contain a lower part of a user's leg in use including at least the user's ankle, and the lower part shaped to contain at least part of a foot of the user in use,

the boot element, in use, defining a central opening intermediate the first and second side flaps;

a tongue bridging the central opening behind the first and second side flaps with edges of the tongue covered by the first and second side flaps;

a pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps;

a first pair of straps threaded through respective ones of the openings to draw the first and second side flaps together; and

a second pair of straps affixed to an outer surface of the boot element, the second pair of straps positioned at a point at or adjacent the ankle when the user's foot is contained within the boot element.

8. (new) The support of claim 7, wherein,
the tongue is connected to the first and second side flaps,

the first pair of straps comprise part-fastening means over at least some of their faces to fastened each strap to both inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps.

9. (new) The support of claim 8, wherein,
the faces of the first pair of straps are fastenable to both the inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps by the inner and outer surfaces of the side flaps cooperating parts of a hook and pile connector and the first pair of straps having complimentary cooperating parts of the hook and pile connector.

10. (new) The support of claim 8, wherein,
the first pair of straps are connected to the inner surface of the first side flap and are each passed through a

respective one of the pair of openings in the first side flap and looped through one of the pair of openings in the second side flap from the inner surface of the second side flap to the outer surface of the second side flap, and returned and secured to the outer surface of the first side flap.

11. (new) The support of claim wherein,
one of the first pair of straps is connected to the inner surface of the first side flap and is passed through a respective one of the pair of openings in the first side flap and looped through one of the pair of openings in the second side flap from the inner surface of the second side flap to the outer surface of the second side flap, and returned and secured to the outer surface of the first side flap, and
the other of the first pair of straps is connected to the inner surface of the second side flap.

12. (new) The support of claim 10, wherein,
The connectors also desirably at about the mid-point vertically of the ankle but at least in general should not be behind the ankle. The straps 40 and 41 are provided at each end with part hook and pile fastenings shown pecked at 42 and 43. The straps 40 and 41 in use extend firstly downwardly across the top of the foot part. The straps are then looped under the metatarsal part of the foot and extend upwardly to be fixed, for example, by the

fastening part 43 towards the upper parts of the part 2 of the foot and ankle support.

13. (new) The support of claim 7, further comprising:
a third pair of straps containing thereon parts of a hook and pile fastener,
the third pair of straps positioned to pass, in use, around the user's leg.

14. (new) The support of claim 13, wherein, the third pair of straps further secure the second pair of straps to the boot element,

the third pair of straps formed by a single strap attached to the boot element at rear part behind, in use, the user's ankle.

15. (new) The support of claim 14, wherein, with the user's leg and foot are placed into the boot element,

the first pair of straps are engaged at one end with the inner surface of the first and second side flaps, passed through an opening, looped through another opening, tightened and secured back onto the outer surface of the side flaps,

the second pair of straps are passed around the user's foot and secured, and

the third pair of straps secure the second pair of straps to the boot element.

16. (new) The support of claim 7, wherein, the straps can pull in either direction and the straps are reversible,

the straps configurable to pull the user's foot into pronation with a resistance to movement avoiding initial inversion injury of the hind or rear foot, and to supinate the foot.

17. (new) The support of claim 16, wherein, the first and second pairs of straps allow the boot element to interchangeably fit both left and right feet.

18. (new) A foot and ankle support, comprising:
a boot element with an upper part and a lower part, and with a first side flap and a second side flap,
the upper part shaped to contain, in use, a lower part of a user's leg including at least the user's ankle, and the lower part shaped to contain, in use, at least part of a foot of the user,
the boot element, in use, defining a central opening intermediate the first and second side flaps;

a pair of openings in each of the first and second side flaps forming, in use, two pairs of adjacent strap openings;

a first pair of straps threaded through respective ones of the openings to draw the first and second side flaps together; and

a second pair of straps affixed to an outer surface of the boot element, the second pair of straps positioned at a point at or adjacent the ankle when the user's foot is contained within the boot element, wherein,

the boot element is free of lace-up elements.

19. (new) The support of claim 18, further comprising:

a tongue bridging the central opening behind the first and second side flaps with edges of the tongue covered by the first and second side flaps;

20. (new) The support of claim 17, the first and second pairs of straps allow the boot element to interchangeably fit both left and right feet.